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☞ Communications designed for publication should be addressed to

C. D. BRIGHAM, Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. X.—NO. 3. WEEKLY EDITION. NOVEMBER 23, 1872.

PENNSYLVANIA, OFFICIAL.

Complete Returns of the Presidential Election.

Grant's Majority Only 137,728.

Below we give a tabular statement of the official returns of the vote for President on the 5th inst by which it will be seed that President Grant's majority is 137,788:

COUNTIES.	GOVERNOR, 1872. Hartranft, Rep.	GOVERNOR, 1872. Buckalew, Dem.	PRESIDENT, 1872. Grant, Rep.	PRESIDENT, 1872. Greeley, Lib. Dem.
Adams	2760	2920	2735	2580
Allegheny	26771	16490	25849	20955
Armstrong	4484	3469	4397	2978
Beaver	3112	2988	3081	2824
Bedford	2973	2971	2961	2105
Berks	13443	12941	13741	10966
Blair	3363	3244	4251	2183
Bradford	7443	6434	7452	3563
Bucks	7275	6966	6913	5426
Butler	3985	3460	4015	2384
Cambria	3823	3539	2941	2347
Cameron	572	541	554	347
Carbon	2444	2326	2452	1946
Centre	3172	3172	3259	2026
Chester	9286	6510	9249	3899
Clarion	2727	3353	2731	2394
Clearfield	1795	3432	1979	2329
Clinton	2018	2022	2033	1750
Columbia	2110	3326	2009	2601
Crawford	7072	6463	6935	4887
Cumberland	4176	4014	3950	2057
Dauphin	7450	5113	6954	2331
Delaware	4930	3020	4231	1166
Elk	698	1193	679	753
Erie	6477	6211	6293	4787
Fayette	3554	4021	3381	2693
Franklin	4505	4183	4391	3164
Fulton	731	804	731	804
Forest	418	360	360	150
Greene	1739	2010	1961	1978
Huntingdon	3249	2930	3099	1838
Indiana	4477	3147	4202	2303
Jefferson	3114	2247	2953	1756
Juniata	1202	1739	1206	1905
Lancaster	13514	9064	14208	6717
Lawrence	3496	1705	3429	945
Lebanon	3454	3018	3441	2076
Lehigh	5355	6895	5842	5622
Luzerne	12341	14433	12995	10004
Lycoming	4653	4024	4403	3877
M'Kean	1023	959	1040	618
Mercer	5673	4966	5717	3311
Mifflin	1786	1765	1833	1127
Monroe	650	2459	787	2205
Montgomery	9014	10261	8850	6113
Montour	1370	1623	1384	1338
Northampton	4634	5403	4841	6126
Northumberland	4314	4263	4271	3356
Perry	2753	2414	2813	2205
Philadelphia	69275	48841	68792	23407
Pike	346	1134	339	797
Potter	1769	1403	1763	564
Schuylkill	5990	9371	8257	6783
Snyder	1906	1572	1809	915
Somerset	3480	1802	3495	1383
Sullivan	431	744	453	573
Susquehanna	3433	4135	3536	2907
Tioga	5504	2876	5750	1777
Union	2062	1574	1992	918
Venango	3071	2966	3020	2246
Warren	3176	2333	3030	1533
Washington	4294	4630	4241	3538
Wayne	2119	3030	2463	2189
Westmoreland	6425	6419	6419	4718
Wyoming	1561	1791	1552	1329
York	6403	8388	6290	6755
Total	253387	217749	249689	211961
Majority	35638		137788	
Aggregate	471147		461650	

A comparison of the vote for President with that for Governor shows a total falling off of 109,497. The Republican vote shows a falling off of 3,698, and the Democratic vote a decrease of 105,799, giving a net increase of 102,101 in the majority.

PAST VOTE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The vote of Pennsylvania in 1860 was for Lincoln, 269,030; for Douglas, 16,765; for Bell, 12,776; and for the Fusion ticket, 178,891—a majority for Lincoln of 70,618 over all. The vote of the State since then has been as follows:—

Year.	Office.	Rep.	Dem.	Maj.	Total.
1860	Governor	262,346	233,228	32,164R	495,574
1861	Auditor-Gen'l	235,460	235,460	Tie.	470,920
1862	Aud. Gen.	213,616	219,140	5,524D	434,197
1863	Supreme Judge	262,204	246,124	16,080R	508,328
1864	President	296,391	276,316	20,075R	572,707
1865	Aud. Gen.	252,328	235,628	16,700R	487,956
1866	Governor	280,374	280,696	17,678R	560,570
1867	Supreme Judge	262,030	262,796	766D	524,826
1868	Governor	306,808	296,291	10,517R	603,099
1868	President	342,280	313,382	28,898R	655,662
1869	Supreme Judge	262,946	262,946	Tie.	525,892
1871	Judge Court	264,067	239,522	14,545R	553,679
1871	Governor	269,506	256,300	13,206R	525,806
1872	President	349,689	211,961	137,728R	561,650

PHILADELPHIA POSTMASTER

The President Will Not Recede from the Civil Service Rules.

Delegation of Pennsylvanians Fail in an Effort to Treat End.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 15, 1872.

The first declaration of policy in regard to Cabinet changes that has arrived since the election to dictate an appointment received a snub direct from the President to-day. An appointment was made yesterday at the White House for Philadelphia, who stands in the interest of candidates for Postmaster in that city. Among those who appeared before the President were the Governor elect, Senator Cameron, Representative Kelley, the Mayor and Sheriff of the city, United States District Attorney, a squad of members of the Legislature and a number of lesser lights. What was most wanted was that the President should set aside the Civil Service rules and appoint a man they had united upon. When the party had gathered Mayor Stokely, who had been selected as spokesman, urged the claims of the candidate of the delegation. He was a good Democrat, a friend of the administration, and his appointment would do much toward maintaining the organization that had rolled up such a large majority. He was aware that the President had already announced a desire to apply the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission in all future appointments, but he thought that in this case, and inasmuch as Mr. Truman's appointment was made in such advantageous advance of the party in Philadelphia, the civil service rules and regulations should be set aside. He did not think the Republican party of Philadelphia had much faith in civil service rules. They certainly did not stop to think of them when they were rolling up large majorities for Grant and Wilson. The effect of this speech on the President was not such as had been expected. The signs were that he regarded it as impudent. The reply he made, that he could not conscientiously set aside the rules and regulations he had approved, was either in tone or matter what they had hoped for. the fact is the whole party came away appreciating that their visit and course under the circumstances had been a mistake in intimation. There is a great deal of good feeling in the city over this discomfiture.

DELIBERATE MURDER.

The Defendant in a Divorce Suit Assassinates a Witness, After Giving Testimony—The Assassin Arrested.

NEW YORK, November 18.—A terrible tragedy was enacted to-day at 51 Pine street, just outside the office of Judge Sutherland. The parties to the case acts in the case are as follows: Testimony in the suit for divorce of Mrs. King from her husband, James H. King, was being taken before Judge Sutherland, Jesse C. O'Neill, a detective on the Erie Railway, and Mrs. Wheeler, witnesses. It is said that the evidence of both showed very brutal conduct on the part of Mr. King to his wife. After the case had been adjourned, O'Neill left the offices, and came out on the third floor, and walked down two flights of stairs, when, as he stepped behind, he had reached the second floor landing, King drew a pistol and three shots rang in quick succession. The first struck the victim in the small of the back, and must have passed through him or near him. The murderer, as the fatal bullet entered the victim's body below the collar bone, about two inches from the spine, fired the third shot deliberately into the back of O'Neill, on the second floor, sat down on the second step and brought the pistol to bear on the third floor, and fired down the stairs. As soon as the third shot was fired he ran down the stairs, rushed into the street, turned to the right and handed the pistol to a man standing near the inner office and then ran. A crowd surged into the office as soon as they arrived in a few moments and a number of men started in pursuit of King and effected his arrest. After an entrance was made to the room, he attempted a retreat, but was quickly removed to New street station. King was not able to give any account of himself, the wound in the lung preventing him. The body of the murdered man was taken to the store of the coroner. Mrs. Wheeler, a witness in the case, stated that King killed a man in the Sandwich Islands some time ago, and attempted the life of a citizen of San Francisco at a later date, for which he was compelled to leave that section. Both parties in the vicinity of where the tragedy was enacted were discussing the frequency of shootings and assassinations in this city. It is said that an attempt may be made to drag King from his cell and deal summarily with him. Both of the deceased and the prisoner are well known in this city.

BOUTWELL.

is Retiracy from the Treasury and Probable Successor.

NEW YORK, November 18.—The *Post* to-day, in an article on G. S. Boutwell and his successor in the treasury, says: "Should Boutwell be translated to the Senate as the successor of Wilson, he need only serve that Senate long enough to secure the honors as has rewarded his career as a Cabinet Minister. He is fairly entitled to the credit of reversing the usual rigorous appropriation of them to the reduction of the national debt, contributed more than all other influences combined to the election of President Grant. After an allusion to the remarkable indifference on the part of the world to Boutwell's monthly statements announcing the steady and rapid reduction of the national debt, the *Post* adds: "The credit of reading this lesson and financial administration to the people is to be divided between the people who furnished the money, the minister who applied it, and the President who has stood him up before the country and compelled every one to pay the share which belongs to Boutwell. The *Post* is an impression generally that Edwin D. Morgan will be called to the treasury—a position offered him by President Lincoln, but which he declined, preferring to serve in the Senate, and adds: "Here are few if any of our public men who have served with larger and varied practical experience, and who would bring to the administration of our financial affairs more of the qualities which would be manifested in our securities at home and abroad, or who would support the President with more prudent counsel."

☞ The Daily Herald issued at Oil City on Tuesday the first number of the *Daily Evening Telegraph*. It is to be published as a supplement to the publisher's weekly, and he patrons of the latter class accordingly. Four column sheet, handsome typography and well filled with interesting matter.

HARRISBURG.

The Constitutional Convention.

THE BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Standing Committees Ordered.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, November 14, 1 872.

All excitement has subsided, and interest somewhat flagged. The business transacted to-day by the Constitutional Convention was not unimportant, and yet it possessed but little interest, and was attended with no excitement. With age comes wisdom, and with a fair launching off into the channel of business to all assemblies, legislative or deliberative, comes calm and sober consideration, and an even progress. The rule holds good but with very few exceptions. In such a body as this convention is—made up of the learning, the experience, the years and the dignity—containing so many of the ablest among the able of our Commonwealth—in such a body the rule should have operated at once. The people looked for no other course to be pursued. Its dignity certainly suffered at the very threshold of its organization, by some of the proceedings of yesterday. No note of party was sounded by the majority, and yet such a note was heard by the leaders of the minority; no partisan banner was flung to the breeze, and yet such an ensign was descried. Judge Woodward can best to himself excuse his own remarks; while the secret of Mr. McAllister's course can perhaps be found in a desire to cover up by a display of zeal for absolute and therefore, in this world, impossible justice, his defection from his old following. Certain it is, whatever reasons may be given and excuses conjured up, the dignity of the convention suffered in one or two of its members yesterday.

To-day, however, things were unexceptionable. If it was a battle yesterday, and one party was defeated, rather than merely overborne in a friendly encounter, or proven in the dark in regard to a right path—then the defeated accepted the issue in a correct mood, for they who were voted down yesterday came up to-day manifesting an earnest spirit of co-operation and harmony with the majority. The consequence was business of importance, but, as we have already said, business of no excitement.

When the roll was called it was discovered that all the members were not in their seats. Several of the Philadelphia delegates had taken a run down the road, home—one or two had paired off to balance absence.

The vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Daniel L. Rhone, of the Thirteenth Senatorial district, which took place yesterday, and of which by an inadvertence I neglected to apprise you, was filled by the action of the delegates at large representing the minority. Judge Woodward presented a report from these delegates, naming Mr. Caleb B. Wright for the position, and Mr. Wright at once took the oath of office at the hands of Mr. Black. Mr. Wright is from Wilkesbarre.

A number of resolutions were introduced calling upon the heads of the various State departments for books, papers, reports, &c., containing certain information desired by the Convention relative to the legislative and executive departments, the former Constitutional Conventions, &c.

Then came the introduction of the main matter of the session—the report, a partial one, of the committee of sixteen, upon "what rules of government the convention should adopt, and what standing committees were necessary for the transaction of business," which was presented the report through Mr. Newlin, of Philadelphia, its chairman. Further time was requested for the consideration of the rules. In respect to the standing committees, twenty-four were designated, and the members of the committee were unanimous in the recommendation of them all, save one. The committee had also the Legislative, Executive and Judiciary Committees of Rights. While Gen. Harry White as spokesman, a minority reported adversely to the creation of any such committee; and when, after Mr. Newlin had had his say, and the reports had been accepted, and the discussion began upon the committee's *seriatim*, this Committee on Declaration of Rights was the only one that provoked any serious debate. It did; and a spirited discussion it was. The motion was made to fill the vacant Judicial position was agreed to. It is generally understood that Hon. Charles R. Buckalew will be the man selected.

ASCALON.

Ex-Governor Curtin's Course.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, November 13, 1872.

When the Republican caucus nominees were proposed in the convention, the Democrats moved to strike from the list the name of Mr. Brown, a colored man, for Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. Curtin voted in favor of this with the Democrats. He has voted with them on nearly every occasion, and seems willing to have it understood that he regards them as his friends, and he theirs. His voting with them against Brown will probably go far to establish him in their confidence. Hate for the colored man is common ground on which they all can stand. But what do those "Liberals," your General Moorhead, Mr. Marshall, Dr. King—I believe that is all of them—say at this action of those into whose arms they have thrown themselves? Curtin evidently feels his situation. It is yet an open question whether his case is that of suicide or murder. If the latter, then Col. McClure has to answer for it; if the former, Curtin knows himself what it is, in a peculiar sense, to be architect of one's own fortune, particularly if it be a very bad one.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, Pa., November 15, 1872.

They are weary of Harrisburg—the delegates to the Convention. Within the last twenty-four hours every man looked upon the town as it is—a dull, cheerless place, without resources of amusement, utterly destitute of attraction. The assembling of the Convention threw a veil of enchantment over the capital, but with the dying away of the excitement and interest attending the opening sessions, and the organization of the body, that veil has been early rent. So the delegates are tired of the place, and want to get away—away home, perhaps, and to attend church on Sunday, "for they are all good men,"—at any rate, away.

This feeling had a strong development last evening—and a stronger this morning. When the Convention met, in consequence, among the first matters of business attended to was the passage of a resolution offered by Mr. Broomal, of Chester, which, modified by a number of amendments tacked to it, provided for the adjournment of the Convention at 4 o'clock, to meet again in the same place, the Hall of the Turner House, on Wednesday morning next. The prevailing impression seems to be that during the interval the chairman, Mr. Meredith, will have abundant time, and will be disposed to take opportunity to fill the Standing Committees provided for, though some of the members—but a few, and certainly the more experienced of the body, doubt whether four days will afford either time or opportunity for the purpose.

You will remember that twenty-four Standing Committees were reported upon yesterday, and three or four in addition were created to-day—the designation of which I shall give you below. In a conversation had with Mr. Meredith, he said his intention was to remain here during the recess, and the Chairman of the Committee of Fifteen will endeavor to retain in Harrisburg a quorum of his committee for work. Mr. Meredith, of course, will give his time and attention to the formation of the committees, but bodily infirmity makes him slow, and age renders him cautious—his pride is in perfect work, as the delivery of the matures rice in perfect fruit—and I fear with the others that he will not be ready on Wednesday next to announce the committees in full. The interval will determine. So far as the Committee of Fifteen is concerned, though the chairman of it—Mr. Newlin, of Philadelphia—a busy little man, but not one of the heavy weights of the Convention; though he will try to keep a working quorum together the chances are against him. Indeed no just reason exists at all why the members should be detained. About the only thing of importance now before it is the decision of a question referred to it to-day relative to the printing already ordered—a minor matter as it now stands, though it may open the door to wider printing interests—and not of sufficient importance to keep the committee together. Then, if the question should arise as to whether it is within the legislative, executive or judiciary committees of rights, or the committee on Public Debts and Public Charges, to report upon the matter, the Convention could refer it to one of them, and adjourn at once.

The Committee of Fifteen made a supplemental report this morning, the principal of the Convention.

The standing committees embraced in the report made yesterday, but which could not be taken up for the want of instrument—and therefore unauthorized cr refused—these committees were considered as follows:

Upon "Future Amendments," upon "Constitutional Schedule, upon "Revision, Arrangement, Revision and Adjustment," upon "Accounts and Expenditures of the Convention," upon "Printing and Binding of the Convention." These were all or[illegible] to the Committee of Fifteen. Upon the standing Committee on "Industrial Interests," and upon "Agriculture, Mining, Manufactures and Commerce," and upon "Revenue, Taxation and Finance." Every Convention has mapped out a wide margin of work.

Quite a spicy little discussion ensued upon a motion made by Mr. Guthrie, of Allegheny, that the printing of the Constitution be given to the same State Printer until otherwise ordered. The State Printer is Mr. Singerly, and is from your city of Pittsburgh. The argument was that the Constitution had not the right long hold on the majority of the printing—that it was bound by the law which put all state printing into his hands. Pats was the argument, and while no attempt was made to refute it, still several of the delegates urged caution lest the public funds be squandered by any omission of economical arrangement in regard to the matter. To no purpose was the discussion.

What the Convention will do in respect to the reporting is very uncertain. Some of the members are opposed to a full stenographic report, others desire it. Some of both kinds from the city, though are not so apprehensive. The whole thing got muddled on the floor to-day, and so it was turned over to the Committee of Fifteen—the basket into which has to be tossed a great deal of wrangling to-day and to-morrow.

The House succeeded in adjourning by twenty minutes after twelve o'clock, noon, and the departing trains this afternoon will be crowded with the delegates.

ASCALON.

New Banks Wanted.

Notices have been printed, under a law of the Legislature, of applications for charters for nineteen new banks, and from four others for an increase of capital. The total amount of capital applied for is $3,000,000, of which $2,000,000 will be paid in, and $6,400,000, while in two instances the applicants do not state the amount desired. The list is as follows:

Citizens' Deposit Bank, to be located at Northumberland, capital $50,000, with privilege of increasing it to $100,000; Bank of Connellsville, at Connellsville, $100,000, increase $200,000; Edinboro' Savings Bank, at Edinboro', $50,000, increase $100,000; National Commercial Bank, at Allentown, $500,000, increase $500,000; Millinburg Bank, at Millinburg, $50,000, increase $100,000; Carbondale Bank, at Carmichael, at Carmichael, $50,000, increase $100,000; Bank of Lawrence County, at New Castle, $500,000, increase $500,000; Jonestown Bank, at Jonestown, $50,000, increase $200,000; Union Savings Bank, at East Birmingham, $200,000, increase not stated; Farmers' Bank, at Pomeroy and Pennington ville, $50,000, increase $100,000; Compound Bank, at East Birmingham, $100,000, increase $200,000; the Farmers' Bank, at Millerstown, $50,000, increase $100,000; Bank, at Philadelphia, $100,000, increase $500,000; Myerstown Bank, at Myerstown, $50,000, increase $100,000; Latonia Bank, at Oil City, $200,000, amount not stated; the Farmers Bank of Harrisburg, at Harrisburg, $100,000, increase $200,000; the Bank of the Savings and Deposit Bank of Annville, at Annville, $50,000, increase $100,000; Keystone Bank, at Philadelphia, $100,000, increase $1,000,000, and the Atlantic Bank, at Philadelphia, $100,000, increase to $1,000,000.

The number of those asking additional banking facilities is four, as follows: Nation's Bank, at Allegheny, with a capital of $100,000, asks the privilege of increasing it to $500,000; Woods Run Saving Fund and Loan Association, at Woods Run, with a capital of $200,000, asks an increase to $500,000; the Westport Savings Bank, at Lawrence, with a capital of $50,000, asks an increase to $200,000; Union Bank, at Connellsville, to have Col. Scott turned out of the Directors of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad. The same may be said of the Union Fire Insurance Company, of East Birmingham, Allegheny county.

The Mansards.

"Dowry with the meretricious products of the jig saw and the mansard bathe, ornamented with a profusion of jumbled ornaments chiselled out of white pine, and supported by wooden pillars, with a flat roof and capital, and frieze of the same material, they sit atop of the brick and stone dwellings like mad in order to see, to ride them to the death. Each paltry scroll offers a position for the flying brand to rest and be fanned into flame. Each bow, each window, each individual cottage of architectural detail that fondly clings to the Mansard roof presents a target for the spark borne on the wind, and a veritable cologn of vantage for the long leaping flame of a house afire. The fire will not leave the Mansard for a deluge, but revels and riots there, and sends out fresh emissaries of destruction from the burning roof tar and wide."

To which the New York *World* responds:

"The fire was communicated from block to block with unexampled rapidity, because the granite buildings were covered with a ragged support with flimsy French roofs called 'Mansards,' because Mansard, who built Versailles and Marly, built similar roofs, which were for the most part of lath and plaster. He built the roofs which Boston miscalled by his name they would be ignited by the first transmit the flames as the first floor or the basement."

The *World* would probably confer a favor on the public by telling us how roofs of that general description may be constructed which will be "as slow to transmit the flames as the first floor or the basement"

A Snake Commits Suicide.

[From the Poughkeepsie (N. Y.) Press.]

On Sunday morning of last week, a wounded adder, of large size, was killed in the mill on the premises of Mr. E. L. Wright, in Nyack, Rockland county. These serpents are among the most poisonous of all the reptiles, and are of the same species as the almost identical with the cobra de capello of India. On the continent of America they are met with on the dry plains in the interior, and on the coast of the Mexican coast, but are exceedingly rare this side of the Mississippi river. After having been mortally wounded, this adder, finding that he could not escape, reared his head about a foot from the ground, inflated his hood enormously, and then struck his fangs into his own body three times in rapid succession, as though determined to make sure he was perfectly dead and as rigid as a stick. Miss Jennie Wright came upon the reptile not long after, and is exceedingly fortunate that he did not strike. The fangs were five-eights of an inch in length, and exceedingly sharp. The body of the serpent was about three feet, by three and a half inches in circumference; color, a very orange, with small dots of blackish brown. It is said that there is no antidote for their poison, and that death ensues in from thirty to forty minutes after having been bitten.

The Champion Gourmand.

According to the Boston *Herald*, there is (or was recently in that city a young man, twenty-one years of age, who weighs about one hundred and seven pounds, apparently in good health, though of sedentary habits, who can know way more provisions at one sitting than would appear to be half the size of a merchant of moderate appetites. At his boarding house on Hanover street he ate the following dinner: A plate of soup, a whole roast chicken, eleven large slices of roast beef, three large sweet potatoes, eight good-sized Irish potatoes, large sweet potato, seventeen cluches of tomatoes, two bowls of grapes, three pieces of apple pudding, two large sides four cups of coffee. When he was done there were plates and dishes on the table that had used and emptied. Two hours latter he was at the Parker House and consumed a sirloin steak, four dozen of oysters in crumbs, and drank four cups of coffee. All this and more he can do any day in the week. His last landlord, after feeding him one week, for usual rate, five dollars, told him that he could not board him any longer for less than fifteen dollars per week. He does not make a boast of his capacity for eating, but offered recently to wager that he could eat three eight pound turkeys, with the usual fixings, vegetables, etc., at one sitting.

WASHINGTON.

Reduction of Revenue Officials.

An Entirely New Plan Maturing

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 18, 1872.

Reduction of the Revenue Officials.

The consolidation of the internal revenue districts and the reduction of the force of assessors and collectors, directed by the tariff-tax bill of last session, is not likely to be effected by January 1st, the time named in the act. A plan is now maturing in the internal revenue office by which the system of collecting the revenue will be essentially changed, and it is believed both economy and efficiency more fully secured than by merely diminishing the present force employed. It is contemplated to dispense entirely with assessors and substitute therefor stamps, the sale of which would be intrusted to collectors, and ultimately to a small number of officers specially appointed for this duty. The present force of supervisors and gaugers would secure the honest execution of the law, and the entire internal revenue would be collected from the sale of stamps. Commissioner Douglass strongly favors the system thus generally outlined, and it will be early brought to the attention of Congress, with the expectation that an act may be passed which will make more effective and permanent the reduction of expense than that authorized by the recent law. The saving in dispensing with assessors would be over six million dollars annually.

Congressmen Assembling.

Senators are beginning quite to swarm in town though as yet but few Representatives, and those for special committee duty, have appeared. Senator Chandler returned to-day from Michigan. Senator Harlan is expected to-morrow, and among others who are already here are Senators Cole, Windom, Osborne, Somerop, Spencer, Stockton, Morrill and Edmunds, of Vermont. The House will meet with nearly three thousand bills on its files—while the Senate has about one-third as many.

Prospect for a Spring Session.

The influence for a spring session of the Forty-third Congress is becoming plainly manifest, and the *Star* this evening says it is almost incredible, since the necessary business cannot possibly be transacted during the short session.

The Steamboat Law.

The Treasury Department has concluded to present no new steamboat bill, but to ask for the passage of a brief supplemental act supplying some of the oversights in the text of the law as it now stands. A section is needed prescribing duties for assistant inspectors. As the law now stands these officers are provided for and a salary is paid them, but no duties are assigned them. This is a fair indication of the character of the bill to be offered.

THE HORSE DISEASE.

COLUMBUS, O.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, November 18, 1872.

The horse disease is spreading rapidly. The city appears to be deserted. Most street cars have been withdrawn. It is thought that by to-morrow night there will not be a horse in sight.

CLEVELAND, O.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BUCYRUS, OHIO, November 18, 1872.

The epizootic has made its appearance in our totality. In the differ[illegible] to-day, and thirty to forty cases reported; none fatal so far. It is also bad in Mansfield.

CRESTLINE, OHIO.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CRESTLINE, OHIO, November 18, 1872.

The epizootic has made its appearance in Crawford county. The livery and sale stables at Bucyrus are all closed in consequence of the disease, and now cases are reported in Galion, Tiro and various points in the county. No deaths yet reported.

MANSFIELD, OHIO.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MANSFIELD, November 18, 1872.

The epizootic prevails here to such an extent that business is very much obstructed thereby. Few if any horses have died, but nearly all are sick and are affected. The mules have taken the disease.

MASSILLON, OHIO.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MASSILLON, November 18, 1872.

The horse disease has brought business to a stand. Every livery stable in the city is closed. All the available ox teams are in demand.

WILMINGTON, N.C.

WILMINGTON, N. C., November 18.—Within the past forty-eight hours the contagious horse disease has appeared to an alarming extent, though no fatal results are yet reported.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MALADY IN TENNESSEE AT-TRIBUTED TO BARNUM'S MENAGERIE.

NASHVILLE, November 18.—The horse disease appeared in this city last night, and all stables are not so apprehensive. The whole thing got muddled on the floor to-day, and so it was turned over to the Committee of Fifteen—the basket into which has to be tossed a great deal of wrangling to-morrow.

The House succeeded in adjourning by twenty minutes after twelve o'clock, noon, and the departing trains this afternoon will be crowded with the delegates.

ASCALON.

New Banks Wanted.

Notices have been printed, under a law of the Legislature, of applications for charters for nineteen new banks, and from four others for an increase of capital. The total amount of capital applied for is $3,000,000, of which $2,000,000 will be paid in, and $6,400,000, while in two instances the applicants do not state the amount desired. The list is as follows:

Citizens' Deposit Bank, to be located at Northumberland, capital $50,000, with privilege of increasing it to $100,000; Bank of Connellsville, at Connellsville, $100,000, increase $200,000; Edinboro' Savings Bank, at Edinboro', $50,000, increase $100,000; Carbondale Bank, at Carmichael, at Carmichael, $50,000, increase $100,000; Bank of Lawrence County, at New Castle, $500,000, increase $500,000; Jonestown Bank, at Jonestown, $50,000, increase $200,000; Union Savings Bank, at East Birmingham, $200,000, increase not stated; Farmers' Bank, at Pomeroy and Pennington ville, $50,000, increase $100,000; Compound Bank, at East Birmingham, $100,000, increase $200,000; the Farmers' Bank, at Millerstown, $50,000, increase $100,000; Bank, at Philadelphia, $100,000, increase $500,000; Myerstown Bank, at Myerstown, $50,000, increase $100,000; Latonia Bank, at Oil City, $200,000, amount not stated; the Farmers Bank of Harrisburg, at Harrisburg, $100,000, increase $200,000; the Bank of the Savings and Deposit Bank of Annville, at Annville, $50,000, increase $100,000; Keystone Bank, at Philadelphia, $100,000, increase $1,000,000, and the Atlantic Bank, at Philadelphia, $100,000, increase to $1,000,000.

The number of those asking additional banking facilities is four, as follows: Nation's Bank, at Allegheny, with a capital of $100,000, asks the privilege of increasing it to $500,000; Woods Run Saving Fund and Loan Association, at Woods Run, with a capital of $200,000, asks an increase to $500,000; the Westport Savings Bank, at Lawrence, with a capital of $50,000, asks an increase to $200,000; Union Bank, at Connellsville, to have Col. Scott turned out of the Directors of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad. The same may be said of the Union Fire Insurance Company, of East Birmingham, Allegheny county.

The Mansards.

"Dowry with the meretricious products of the jig saw and the mansard bathe, ornamented with a profusion of jumbled ornaments chiselled out of white pine, and supported by wooden pillars, with a flat roof and capital, and frieze of the same material, they sit atop of the brick and stone dwellings like mad in order to see, to ride them to the death. Each paltry scroll offers a position for the flying brand to rest and be fanned into flame. Each bow, each window, each individual cottage of architectural detail that fondly clings to the Mansard roof presents a target for the spark borne on the wind, and a veritable cologn of vantage for the long leaping flame of a house afire. The fire will not leave the Mansard for a deluge, but revels and riots there, and sends out fresh emissaries of destruction from the burning roof tar and wide."

To which the New York *World* responds:

"The fire was communicated from block to block with unexampled rapidity, because the granite buildings were covered with a ragged support with flimsy French roofs called 'Mansards,' because Mansard, who built Versailles and Marly, built similar roofs, which were for the most part of lath and plaster. He built the roofs which Boston miscalled by his name they would be ignited by the first transmit the flames as the first floor or the basement."

Coal Miner Killed.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MASSILLON, OHIO, November 18, 1872.

A miner named John Kemmer was fatally injured on Saturday last by the falling of stone in Willow coal mine. He died the same evening.

A Pittsburgher Suffocated by Gas.

CONNAUTS, O., November 18.—Two men, strangers here, sought shelter in the barn-room of a blast furnace last night, and this morning one of the men, named Thomas, was found dead, having been suffocated by gas from the coal burning in the furnace the same cause. Thomas started down the river from Pittsburgh on the raft on Saturday last. His body will be spranned his arm and was discharged at Cincinnati, and it is supposed was pedestrianating home.

CASUALTIES.

Railroad Brakeman Instantly Killed.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MEADVILLE, PA., November 18, 1872.

A brakeman on the Atlantic and Great Western Railway, named Frank Ames, was instantly killed near Freedom, Ohio, yesterday, by falling from the top of a freight car on the track.

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CRIMES.

A Policeman Kills His Assailant.

NEW ORLEANS, November 18.—Three men assailed a policeman here to-day, and the officer killed one of his assailants in self-defence.

Abortionist Rosenzweig Awarded a New Trial.

NEW YORK, November 18.—A full bench of the Supreme Court to-day unanimously set aside the conviction of Rosenzweig, the famous abortionist, who was sentenced last November to seven years' imprisonment for the murder of Mrs. Lowlaby, and packing her remains in a trunk for transportation from the city, and ordered a new trial. Rosenzwig will be brought immediately to this city.

Defrauding the Revenue.

BOSTON, November 18.—A special term of the United States Court was to-day convened here to-day, Judge Lowell presiding, for the trial of the case of the United States against Wm. F. Weld & Co., in paper, whose indictment contains charges that the government out of a large amount of revenue. The amount claimed by the government is $ 1,500,000, and the alleged frauds cover a period of upward of five years.

At a Chinese funeral in San Francisco, the other day, the body was placed in a coffin, which was set upon chairs on the sidewalk. At the foot of the coffin was a table, upon which was piled a quantity of uncooked vegetables, fowls, and meat. Beside this table stood the priest, dressed in a black robe, with a hat upon his head shaped like that of a cardinal's. He was repeating the burial service in a kind of chant, varying the music by alternately clanking cymbals together and ringing a small dinner bell.

On the sidewalk knelt three women, with white sacks over their heads, who were the hired mourners of the occasion. None of the others seemed to mourn at all, and the men and women present were laughing and talking and the children playing on all sides.

Meteorological Discovery,

By United States Signal Service.

An Aerial Wave the Cause of Our Great Snow Storms.

WASHINGTON, November 15.—The researches of the Signal Office have just been rewarded by a beautiful and highly important meteorological discovery. On the coast of England from time immemorial the phenomenon of the great November atmospheric wave has been the speculation of scientists and seamen, but Sir John Herschel and others have supposed it was peculiar and confined to England and Western Europe, which it reaches from the South Atlantic and over which it rolls in long continued undulations from October to January, constituting an important element in the phenominal character of the European winter. On the 12th of November a similar atmospheric wave began to break over the shores of Oregon and British Columbia, as shown by the weather telegrams. By the evening of the 13th it had spread over nearly all of the Pacific States and Territories, Utah and Nevada, and at midnight was pouring through the passes of the Rocky Mountains. On Thursday, 14th, it descended upon Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas and Indian Territory. On Friday morning it extended in unbroken magnitude and magnificence from Oregon and Washington Territory eastward through the great trough or depression of the Rocky Mountain basin, bose in Idaho and Montana, and stretched thence to the lower Missouri and lower Mississippi Valleys, and over the western shores of the Mexican Gulf. This discovery will enable meteorologists to anticipate by many days the approach of winter, as it advances from the Pacific coast eastward in the great current of westerly winds. It serves to clear up the old mystery of American winter storms, showing that they originate in the Rocky Mountains, upon whose cold and loftiest summits in Nevada, Utah, Col

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, November 23, 1872.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1872.

THE opposition papers will have it that General GRANT and Colonel MOSBY have shaken hands across the bloody chasm, and that the result will be that the Colonel will get "a fat office for his services in carrying Virginia for the Republicans," a result, which, it is said, General GRANT attributes to him more than any other man. All of which is very shocking, no doubt, to SCHURZ, TRUMBULL, SUMNER & Co. But we hope the story is a true one, nevertheless.

THE question which our Constitutional Convention decided in the negative by a very large vote, to wit: Are its powers limited or in any manner controlled by the Legislature? was raised in the Illinois Convention and decided the same way. The clear and logical argument of the Hon. WM. H. ARMSTRONG, who by common consent stands among the foremost delegates in our convention, in reply to Judge BLACK, was so convincing that more than two-thirds of the delegates experienced no difficulty in adopting his conclusions.

IT is astonishing how a decisive election result, like a clap of thunder that clears the sky, leads to honest confession. For instance, the *World*, which argued for months after the day of the Cincinnati movement was only second to gospel, now affirms with emphasis, it "deserves to be regarded as a prize specimen of political irrelevance and imbecility." And it don't think any better of Mr. GREELEY now, although it labored as though it was really in earnest to make people believe that he was the very best man alive for President. But they didn't. No more did the *World*.

THE question has frequently been asked: "After THIERS, what?" It is about to have an answer; for the cable brings us the news that he has resigned, and that GEN. MACMAHON is acting as President. If a new trial for France is not upon her, then probabilities will fail. Concerning almost any other country similarly situated, one might speculate with some satisfaction. Of France at the present time, however, it is to be said, there is so much uncertainty without THIERS at the head to inflame that what would be deemed the most probable conjecture might be at fault within a day. It is hardly conceivable that so good a patriot as he has shown himself to be would have taken such a step, even in the moment of heat, at the risk of plunging his country in revolution. Was it a maneuver to end in his recall and a subsequent vote of confidence?

WE yesterday cited a few of the numerous instances in which the example set by the United States in diplomacy, science and enterprise, has of late been coupled by other peoples and governments. This quickening power seems to have obtained wider scope and compass than we had supposed. The construction and success of our own transcontinental railways has, it appears, lately given rise to the project of running a railway straight across the continent of Australia, from Adelaide to Port Darwin, a distance of some two thousand miles. The main intent of the plan is, of course, to deflect, as far as possible, the stream of British emigration from its present line toward the United States, and turn it toward Australia; but the arguments by which it is supported are almost wholly based on the example of this country. Referred to this country from the establishment of its own great transcontinental line, in the growth and development of the territory through which it passes. Thus the latest born of civilization is every day and everywhere becoming more fully and clearly recognized as the leader of the world's intellectual and material progress.

THE New York *World* bitterly complains of the present attitude of Mr. GREELEY toward the Democratic party, calling his professed political neutrality "a sham;" declaring that its benevolent side is turned toward the administration and its scowling side toward his late supporters; charging that he is heading his canoe for the GRANT harbor, keeping up a deceitful quality while violating the spirit, and otherwise accusing him of being a "jumping JIM CROW," whose performances only serve to demonstrate the utter insincerity and hollowness of his late professions. The *World* insists that if the merits and importance of the late controversy were at all what he represented them to be in his campaign speeches, his present support of the administration on which he made such unmeasured abatement onslaughts, convicts him of the most palpable inconsistency and hypocrisy, and it announces him as a time server who, entirely regardless of the principles at stake, cared only for "the cause" so long as he fancied it might be made to inure to his own advantage. That paper does not, however, make any allusion to the equally glaring fact that it trifled with its own character for sincerity, in eulogizing, after his nomination, the candidate whom it had so savagely attacked before. With the intrinsic justice of the *World's* strictures, we have nothing at all to do. Only, in arraigning Mr. GREELEY it pronounces its own emphatic condemnation.

OUR CONSTITUTION MAKERS.

The Constitutional Convention will reassemble in Harrisburg to-day. It is to be presumed that the question, whether to "go right at work" and remain at it till nearly the close of the year, and then go to Philadelphia, in accordance with the resolution adopting the invitation of that city, or after a few days spent in gathering material take a recess till the January meeting in Philadelphia, will be actively canvassed, and perhaps come up for an early decision. It is understood that there are those who, after a brief session at Harrisburg, will favor an adjournment to Philadelphia; while others—and this number may be found to be considerable—will prefer to continue their work in Harrisburg till the holidays. Personal convenience and views of duty will enter into the action of delegates, no doubt; but it will, perhaps, not be material which way the question is determined.

It is quite too early to begin to criticise the proceedings of the Convention, to which has been assigned the task of reforming the old or of making a new Constitution for the State of Pennsylvania. There is certainly a strong, one may say an irresistibly strong, presumption in favor of the belief that an assembly consisting of men so able, intelligent, and well informed as the members of the Convention may safely be supposed to be, is fully competent by the best use of its powers to the work intrusted to it, and to the fulfillment of its responsibilities. Hence even the first or preliminary acts of the members in their collective capacity have, no doubt, been the result of careful inquiry and mature reflection beforehand. The people may, therefore, contentedly rest assured that whatever may appear to them at a distance precipitate or ill considered in the action of the Convention, is thus apprehended simply because they are unable to look at the acts in question from the inside point of view. One of the most important of these questions which called for early decision was the question as to where the convention should hold its sessions. Three places had been suggested, each of which was regarded as presenting certain advantages which might reconcile its selection. One of them, Pittsburgh, was probably never seriously thought of by any considerable number of the members as worthy of the honor claimed for it by a few enthusiastic citizens. In fact, the proposal was hardly consistent with the reputation for unassuming modesty which the city has so well earned. Habitually suppressing her claims to attention and consideration, her sudden and present self-assertion "by insurrance" might secure for her important pecuniary benefits, she seems in this instance to have chosen injudiciously the occasion for putting forward her attractions. None can be extreme of the State. Pittsburgh must be admitted to lack the advantages which, in the absence of centrality, might result in a convenient and suitable site for the deliberations of the Convention. It is, however, utterly false, a mere invention of malignity, that the Constitutionmakers received with contempt or ridicule the proposal that they should hold their sessions in Pittsburgh. The laughter which followed Deacon WHITE'S offer of his resolution was wholly provoked by the tardiness of the step, the Convention having already decided the question to which it referred.

Harrisburg, as the capital of the State, undoubtedly presents strong claims to the presence of the Convention. The archives of the State are preserved there, and it is reasonable to suppose that to them frequent reference will be made in the discussions of the body. It may also be taken for granted that the functionaries of the State government must be frequently consulted with the view of procuring information possessed by them alone, or of obtaining suggestions founded upon official experience. These considerations in favor of the capital may, however, be less forcible than they seem to the mere theorist, and it is now certain that, in the minds of the members of the Convention, they were overborne by the reasons which recommended Philadelphia as the most advantageous and appropriate scene of their prolonged and difficult labors.

Some of the considerations which decided the members to select that city as the seat of their legislative toils it is not difficult to conjecture. For one thing, the prospect of more ample and suitable accommodations of a merely material kind may have had some weight. Then the excellent libraries of Philadelphia are a great advantage. The State Library at Harrisburg may be good, but having to supply the literary and scientific thirst of the members of the Pennsylvania Legislature during the sessions of that body, its resources might not suffice to answer the heavy demands certain to be made upon them by the members of the Convention. And besides, the State Library is probably deficient in a class of books most likely to be needed—those ancient and recondite sources of legislative and jurisprudential science to which the members of the Convention ought to have unrestrained access. Another reason which prompted the Convention to leave Harrisburg may have been the praiseworthy desire to carry on their deliberations at a distance from those peculiar influences which are reported to pervade the moral atmosphere of the Capital in the winter season. If, in addition to the foregoing considerations, we suggest that the abundant resources of amusement offered in a large and highly civilized city like Philadelphia may have exerted some feeble attraction upon the mind of the Convention, we say nothing disrespectful or disparaging. Indeed, we fancy that the prospect of luminous thinking, harmonious sessions, and valuable results, is much increased by the facilities for rational relaxation afforded by the place chosen for the deliberations of the Convention. In order to set aside the arguments in favor of Harrisburg, it is enough to say that the railroad quite nullifies the claim founded on centrality, and that any official information that may be required on the sudden can be at once procured by means of the telegraph.

When mentioning the criticisms to which the opening proceedings of the convention have given occasion, we may not pretermit reference to the misgiving excited by the signs of coming discord. In these signs, however, we perceive no ground for alarm. In an assembly in part composed of so many men of nearly equal ability and knowledge, time is required for the members who feel themselves qualified for leading positions, fully to comprehend and adjust their relations to one another. With only two or three members thus qualified, no doubt the convention might do its work with less friction and greater rapidity, but there would not be the same likelihood perhaps of thorough work. All the talents of whatever kind in the assembly are, we doubt not, needed, and we have just as little doubt that, when the scores of able men in the convention shall have learned by experience that useful progress is incompatible with the personal ascendancy of all, they will learn, each of them, to renounce the claim of infallibility and to defer gracefully to one another, in this direction a splendid precedent was established by the great men who met in convention to form the constitution of the United States, and the most useful lesson this given has since exerted a beneficial influence on countless conventions which are required to dry their way to a proper consistency and fit it for the market, while with the new machine this preparation is completed in a few hours at a relatively small cost.

Take care, everybody concerned. A young man in Buffalo, who, after attending to a horse sick with the prevailing epidemic, received a small portion of the virus in the eye when the horse snorted, has lost the use of that eye in consequence, and will also lose the use of the other.

A good sign of how rapidly Boston is recovering from its calamity, is afforded by the fact that all the newspapers of the city are issuing double sheets, and that in each is an apologue for the omission of columns of advertisements.

The author of the *Origin of Species* has just issued what is described by the London papers as "a solid and closely-packed volume," on "Expression of the emotions in man and animals."

There are now in Hayti no less than eight Episcopal congregations and five ministers, which is the result of missionary labors commenced there only two years ago by Bishop PAINE, from New Haven.

Of the 1,054,670 population of Wisconsin more than one-third are foreigners, and more than two-thirds are put down in the census as "having one or both parents foreign," and 470,759 inhabitants, or nearly two-thirds, as "having foreign fathers and foreign mothers."

The famous Old South Church, of Boston, is to undergo, and at this time no part of our country would have been more prosperous. Its Boston spirit would never have turned toward the North; capitalists were given to understand that they were not wanted there, and immigrants, when not driven away absolutely, were treated with such a degree of inhospitality that many of them who went came back, and thousands of others intending to go reconsidered the purpose. No people or section ever before pursued a course so perfectly suicidal. The consequences will not be recounted. The South has been an immense loser—a fact which there is now reason to believe many of its best men are willing to admit. Whether the time to correct the error has passed or not is doubtful. But there is some evidence of a better disposition, and substantial benefits may yet result from putting it in practice.

The subject, we are assured, is engaging the serious attention of President GRANT, between whom and some of the foremost citizens of the Southern States, have taken place since the election interviews and communications which, *if not interrupted* by a new manifestation of the foolish resentment which followed the close of the war, may lead to most happy results—not to the Southern people alone, but the entire country. A relaxation of some of the rigorous legislation of Congress is already talked of, and the subject is likely to receive attention in the President's forthcoming message. The past contains many lessons of instruction, and if they are not to be rejected the future is full of promise. The encouraging feature of the subject is that the President views the subject with the eye of a practical statesman. If these new hopes are not fully realized it will not be from any failure on his part.

SOME days ago a Democratic paper started a story that Hon. ALEXANDER H. RAMEY, impeachment witness in the Second Alabama district, had served nine years in the penitentiary; and this statement is now being diligently circulated throughout the length and breadth of the land by the organs of the party. Mr. Rapier is a colored man, and this, so far as is known, constitutes the only ground for the cruel aspersions of which he has been made the subject. Not only has he never been convicted in any penitentiary, but, as is the uniform testimony, even of his political opponents, some of whom were born in the same town, and who have known him from his youth up, that he has always been highly esteemed as an upright, honorable and worthy man. For several years past he has filled the position of Assessor of Internal Revenue for one of the Alabama districts, in which capacity he distinguished himself both for ability and integrity, earning alike the confidence of the Department and the respect of the people among whom he lived. He is a man of considerable education as well as unusual intellectual endowments, and is everywhere regarded as a marked man among his race, who will serve his constituents faithfully and well. The story which we quote from a party paper can have for indulging in such wanton and heartless calumny toward an innocent and unoffending man.

THERE appears to be quite a difference of opinion in Boston concerning the question of accepting or declining offers of outside pecuniary assistance. Those who have taken counsel with their pride of city do not in any spirit of complacency or pride, however, but because they believe the burden can be borne without any great difficulty, if those of her wealthy people who have not suffered will take care of the poor, and furnish employment to the temporarily deprived of employment. This is the ground taken by the *Advertiser*. On the other hand it is urged by the *Traveller* that so large a number of the most generous people of the city have themselves been deprived of the means which enabled them to give, that the relief committee cannot possibly be well supplied from home sources, and that therefore it better accept than to refuse to receive offers from other places. This view is also shared in by the *Post*, which, while heartily applauding the sturdy self-reliance of the burned city, believes that the poor, who largely compose the sufferers by business losses by the fire, will certainly need a portion of the aid offered from abroad. The spirit of self-helpfulness thus far exhibited is most gratifying, but it is none the less true that the great work of the city to boast may not be obtained at the cost of the unnecessary suffering of one of its inhabitants. This would not be commendable.

THE launching, last Saturday, of another first-class iron steamship at Chester, in this State, marks another notable advance in the progress of iron ship building in this country. The launch of forty-one thousand tons of iron steamers have been and will be built on the Delaware in the space of a year, of which thirty-four thousand tons are for foreign trade. The vessel in question was built for the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, has a carrying capacity of nearly five thousand tons, and is said to have been pronounced by builders from the Clyde, as well as by a number of distinguished naval officers and engineers, detached by the government for the purpose of unofficially inspecting her construction, one of the most perfect vessels afloat in any waters. Her consort will be completed in a month, and will also exhibit the gratifying activity existing in our own ship yards, statements equally favorable in tone come from the builders of wooden vessels along the New England coast. Altogether the remarkable unity hopes of a large increase in American tonnage by the end of next year.

A CONVENTION of the Swine-breeders of the country assembles at Indianapolis to-day. The product of the hog figures largely in our articles of export, and is one of the most important articles of commerce that the Western States produce, besides being the medium through which a large portion of the corn crop finds a market. It is interesting to note the difference in the average weight of the hogs from which the horses that drag the cars of twenty years ago, York packers estimate the difference in favor of the present time, at seventy pounds, net, to the hog. Fully one-third has been gained in the last twenty years by the improved breeds, and the proper attention to cleanliness, which is now so much the attention of breeders over the whole country to inquire into the relative qualities of each breed, and among other questions decide "What constitute thoroughbred swine."

A TERRE HAUTE, Ind., paper gives the latest cure for the ague. It says that if, when you feel the chill coming on, you will crawl down a long flight of stairs, head foremost, on your hands and feet, when you arrive at the bottom, instead of shaking you will find yourself puffing, red in the face, and perspiring freely from the strong efforts made to support yourself. What will ague patients have to live in one-story houses, though?

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Hollow walls, filled with water, are the suggestion of the *American Artisan* for securing fire proof structures. The device is clearly stated and ingeniously defended by the author, and we leave it to the engineers to make the best—or the worst—of it.

The millennium has begun in Vermont, where they recently hung a man in effigy for slandering his neighbors.

The first section of a submarine cable, intended for the government of British Columbia, to be laid across Rosario Straits, connecting Victoria with the main land, has just been completed at San Francisco, the first work of its kind on the Pacific coast.

Late English exchanges state that, despairing of a satisfactory and speedy settlement of the land question, influential parties are maturing a scheme whereby at least half a million of the cream of the agricultural population of England will be transferred to the United States.

The season of navigation on our Northern lakes, now drawing to a close, is pronounced by competent authorities to be one of the best on record.

Little by little the year grows old,
The red leaves drop from the maple trees;
The sun grows dim, and the winds blow cold,
Down from the distant arctic seas.

Out of the skies the soft light dies,
And the shadows of winter come creeping over,
And the bee and the bird are no longer heard
In grove or meadow or field of clover.

Forty-four cargoes of corn in bulk have been shipped from New Orleans across the Atlantic in the last fourteen months, and the *Picayune* says: Out of all these shipments only one or two cargoes, which went out during the germinating season, have been injured by heating. Most of them have sold in Great Britain at a materially better price than corn from New York or Montreal.

The president and directors of the Greenwich street elevated railway, in New York, have been consulting with the property owners along the line of the road, in regard to the purchase of a building a continuous line of sidewalk on a level with the track, fourteen feet above the street, thus relieving the sidewalks below, and affording to owners of buildings an opportunity to convert the second story rooms of their dwellings into stores. The proposition seems to meet with general favor.

The cultivation of the white poppy for the production of opium is said to be meeting with marked success in Tennessee. The plants are large and more vigorous, and the capsules from two to ten times as large as those from the imported seed.

An eminent chemist expresses the opinion that the so-called Arizona diamonds are colorless sapphires, which, when properly cut, approach the diamond in brilliance, and are so hard as to scratch every other mineral except the diamond.

A young lady of Philadelphia, who has a penchant for practical mechanics, has invented an improvement on the sewing machine which will adapt them for the manufacture of sails and other heavy goods, something heretofore impossible.

Vermont is taking great interest in fish culture. The Fish Commissioners of the state have found that their efforts in the great work of stocking and re-stocking the Connecticut, the St. Lawrence and the Hudson, and that salmon can be made to amply abound in each.

If the humerus or arm bones of a bird be perforated, it is said that its trachea or windpipe may be cut without producing suffocation, respiration going on by the openings of the bones.

A machine has lately been invented for drying porcelain clay or potters' earth. Under the present system eight months are required to dry the clay to a proper consistency and fit it for the market, while with the new machine this preparation is completed in a few hours at a relatively small cost.

A gas well has been struck in Friendship, Wis., and the citizens of the place are putting it to practical use in lighting up and heating their houses.

Mr. J. D. Gould, residing fourteen miles from Savannah, on the Ogeechee canal, has been experimenting in the culture of bananas, and raised this year as fine fruit as imported and fully ripe fruit as any from the West Indies.

It is said a schism is imminent among the Shaking Quakers on the question of matrimony, which may result in the entire disruption and dissolution of the society.

South Royalston, Mass., made 12,000 bushels of shoe-pegs last year, in addition to 70,000 trunk hoops, 6,000 mosquito frames, &c. It can't hope to compete with New Jersey in the matter of turning out "mosquito frames," however.

The *Technologist* says the best time for painting the exterior of buildings is late in autumn or during the winter. Paint applied at this season will endure twice as long as when applied in hot weather. In the former it dries slowly and becomes hard, like a glazed surface, not easily affected afterward by the weather, or worn off by the beating of storms. But in very hot weather the oil in the paint soaks into the wood at once, as into a sponge, leaving the lead nearly dry and nearly ready to crumble off. This last difficulty, however, might in a measure be guarded against, though at an increased expense, by first going over the surface with raw oil. By painting in cold weather, one annoyance might certainly be escaped, namely: the collection of small flies on the fresh paint.

The most satisfactory election bet we have heard of was that made by a Bridgeport lady and gentleman on the eve of election. If Grant should be elected the lady was to ride the lady and if Greeley was elected the lady was to have the young man. The result shows that the young man won the bet, and it is stated on authority of the young lady herself that she is perfectly willing he should have the prize.

The principal men in an organization of hog stealers in the central part of Indiana have been arrested, and the gang probably broken up. They had been in active operation for the last two years.

Three strongly marked cases of hydrophobia have been developed among the hogs near Fort Royal, Va. The swine were bitten by a rabid dog about the middle of September, but showed no signs of the disease until last week, when they suddenly became furious, tearing each other dreadfully. They were immediately killed.

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PERSONAL.

A few days ago we stated that a number of the citizens of Philadelphia, generally private and unofficial persons, were raising one hundred thousand dollars as a gift to the widow and children of the lamented General MEADE. Up to saturday last seventy-four thousand dollars had been received.

At last the question of Mr. Stanley's nationality is to be settled. The "Story of His Life and Early Adventures" is promised at once. It will give views of his birthplace and school, with portraits of his mother and grandfather. It is understood that Mr. Stanley's friends and relatives have contributed much of the material.

In a sermon on the subject of labor, delivered last Sunday night, Henry Ward Beecher said that, from the applications he received daily from young men out of work, it must be the general impression that he owns Central Park, Prospect Park, the Custom House, the Navy Yard and Postoffice. He desired it to be known that he had no personal or political influence at Washington. Yet he acknowledged feeling sympathy with the 25,000 idle young men in New York who want to be bookkeepers, and can't induce themselves to try to be anything else. He did not hold up his hands austerely and say: "Young men, go West!" [great laughter], but many of them had rushed away from their father's farms before they had learned to work. Many of them were a sort that would starve on a hundred acres of good land, he would not swear in a lumber yard, and be barefooted if they owned all the leather in the "swamp." The useless man simply lies when he declares he is as good as any other man.

Mr. Seward's house, at Auburn, is filled with singular testimonials of regard and esteem from every quarter of the world, which have been presented to him since his retirement from public life. There are specimens of ore from western mines; specimens from the young Art Academy of Mexico; a model of the Great Pyramid; and the full products of the globe. But the most curious present is a gold watch, brought from China, such as the men of rank have borne before them in processions, with the portrait of Mr. Seward in the center, his son's portrait on the half of the watch-case, and the border a grotesque crowd of hypothetical ancestors.

The Queen of England has reversed the gallantry of Sir Walter Raleigh, who spread his rich plush coat out for his royal mistress to walk on. The Duke of Sutherland is having a shaft sunk in his estate to improve some mines, and being told of these operations, the Queen, the papers expressed a desire to see them. The Duke escorted her thither and while Her Majesty was standing on the bank inspecting the work it commenced to rain. A few yards off one of the men was sawing some timber for the shaft, and, heedless of the rain, continued his work without a coat. Presently he was surprised to feel a light touch, and on looking up perceived the Duke, with a cloak over his shoulders, at the same time exclaiming, "The Queen requested me to present you with her own rug; you may keep it and wear it."

Mention has already been made of the establishment of a Swedenborg club in New York, composed largely of men who accept Swedenborg's philosophy, but do not go to the extreme of the formation of a sect, but including also church members. This sect, though small, is one of the most vital, and has a large following in proportion to its numbers, among them such men as Parke Godwin, of the *Evening Post*, who has translated the works of Dante; France; Charles A. Dana and Mr. Hitchcock, of the *Sun*; John Swinton, ex-editor of the *Times*; Major Commerford, of the *World*; Mr. Church, editor of the *Galaxy* magazine; Robert Carter, editor of *Appleton's Journal*, and among the clergy, the well-known Mr. Dunbar, of the *Advertiser*; Mr. Howells, editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*, and others.

Miss Annie Sedgwick, daughter of Charles B. Sedgwick, who died in this city last year at the time of the great fires in those cities, and, singularly enough she was in Boston on Sunday, and witnessed the conflagration. The coincidence must have been better double their fire brigade whenever Miss Sedgwick puts foot in town.

Mr. Spurgeon's sister is preaching at Willingham, Cambridgeshire, England, with such success that the police authorities there have expressed their thanks to her for effecting a decrease in the number of criminal cases.

Rose Eytinge, the favorite New York actress, who married the nephew of his uncle, George Butler, and went to live near Boston, is said to be about to return to the stage. John C. Heenan's wife, who was also an actress, and whose married experience has been quite similar to Mrs. Butler's, is also said to meditate a return to her old profession.

A Boston merchant who lost over $100,000 by the late fire, ordered a man out of his store for whining and croaking about the great calamity. He says it was the only time he ever swore in his life.

Mrs. Goddard died at North Littleton, N. H., on Tuesday, having completed her 100th year on the 17th of May last.

Dr. Samuel Osgerhill, a young sprig of eighty-seven, was married to Mrs. Wealthy Patterson, a blushing widow of eighty-one at Warsaw, Ill., a few days ago.

Mrs. Clara Fairchoth, of Chicago, daughter of Dr. D. D. Bronson, of Rochester, N. Y., has gone, for change of scene and climate. It is stated that during seven weeks she slept but fifteen hours, all told, and that she was for a time totally deprived of speech, and at times has severe spasms, during which she begs piteously for mercy. Her brain is diseased, and also her nervous system.

Hon. Galusha A. Grow, President of the Houston and Great Northern Railroad of Texas, has been elected President of the Texas Central Railroad, both are hereafter to be operated as one road, under the management of Mr. Grow. At present the two roads have a little over 200 miles in Texas. They are mainly built by New York capitalists, and are controlled by some of the best men in that city.

The Washington correspondent of the *Herald* in that city that Senator Trumbull will resign his seat in the Senate upon the next assembling of that body.

ROCHEFORT, whose bitter jibes neither Empire nor Republic could stand, made his reappearance in the Legislative Assembly, "in a fitful, shadowy, ghost-like manner," He has been heard of as an inmate of the prison at St. Pierre, the motive for his removal to Versailles being that the garrison there could not, according to the *Temps*, the hopeless political offender, condemned last year to transportation for his writing in the Lanterne, has been given by the authorities to visit the neighborhood of Paris for the purpose of being married to a lady with whom he had fallen in love during his incarceration, "legitimatizing" his children. The bride, it is said, was lying dangerously ill in a garret in the neighborhood of Versailles, with a squad of gendarmes as his "best men," came to wed her. It was generally thought that he had been released on account of his good conduct in prison; but it is scarcely possible that he should have been released from there to be married in New Caledonia for his dismal wedding. Where has the man been all this time, is the question asked in France.

The Sultan of Turkey has been reported to desire to overthrow the old system of succession to the throne, and secure the accession of his son to it, instead of his brother Abdul as last. He has given his boy, Prince Youssouf Izzidien, every privilege which has been heretofore denied the royal race. This latter signal being understood, the heroes rush to their places on hearing the alarm, and several minutes' time is thereby saved.

It is to be hoped that our city fops, whose musical aspirations are exhibited at early morning hours, will have at least a mild touch of the prevalent poultry disease, enough to discourage them in their matutinal serenades hereafter.

To-night the moon will be farthest from the earth. Shortly after midnight it will be near the planet Uranus.

Florence, Italy, was recently visited by a plague of butterflies, the like of which was never known. The insects came after night, and in such swarms that the street lamps gave little light. Fires were started in the streets by the police and citizens, in which the butterflies burnt their wings, and in an hour or afterward the streets were covered with a layer of the little pests an inch thick. They were of a white color, and the streets looked as if there had been a snow storm.

A gas well has been struck in Friendship, Wis., and the citizens of the place are putting it to practical use in lighting up and heating their houses.

We see, in a glass case, a three story, steeple-shaped clock, four feet wide at the first story and nine feet high. The movement is placed in the first story, on four delicate columns, within which swings the inverted pendulum, and on the top of the second story is a bee-hive. Behind the pendulum there is a picture representing mature manhood—a country-man behind his plough. The four corners are carved, and represent the four periods of life—infancy, youth, manhood and age. The spaces to the right and left of the clock are ornamented with two oil-paintings, representing the spring-time of life (children playing in a garden), and the autumn or end of life (grave-diggers in a cemetery).

The second story consists of two tower-like pieces, on the corners of which there are two pictures that represent boyhood and early manhood. In the one a boy is playing with a little tub a way from the shore. He stands upright in the boat, and points to the distance; he is about to begin life. In the other a young man, who has already made some progress in the journey of life, entertains a female with a guitar, in a garden that reminds him of the fleetness of time. On this story there are three guardian angels.

A majestic tower crowns, as third story, the ingenious structure. A cock, as a symbol of watchfulness, stands on the top, crowing at the hour at which opens the tower in front. On this portal there is a pendulum, which represents the impassibleness of earthly things. The entire structure is, in appearance, like an old Gothic castle.

Now, let us see if we can describe the mechanical action of the clock. When it marks the first quarter, the door of the left piece of the second story opens, and we see a child issue from the background, come forward to a little bell, give it one blow, and then disappear. At the second quarter a youth appears, strikes the bell twice, and then disappears; at the third quarter a man of the prime of life does the same; we have a tottering old man, leaning on a staff, who strikes the bell three times, and then at the last closes of itself. When the hours are full, the door of the right piece of the second story opens, and Death, as a skeleton, with a scythe in hand, appears, and marks the hour by striking a bell. But it is at the ninth hour that we have the most striking and lively representation of the day of judgment. Then, when Death has struck three blows on the little bell, the cock on the top of the tower suddenly flaps his wings, and crows in a shrill tone; and, after Death has struck the fourth time, he lays down his scythe and his hour-glass, and, with a threatening air, turns to the right and left, and looks around him. Then the three angels, who stand in the tower, raise their trumpets with their right hands (in the left they hold swords), and blow a blast toward each of the four quarters of the earth. At the last blast the door of the tower opens, and the resurrected children of earth appear. The old Gothic castle in the middle of the structure is then closed, and remains so until next week, when they suddenly became furious, tearing each other dreadfully. They were immediately killed.

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IRON MANUFACTURE.

New Furnaces in Pennsylvania.

Unprecedented Demand for the Product.

Development of Our Resources—England Must Draw Her Supplies from Us—America to be Known as the Iron World.

A special correspondent of the New York *Times* has been making a tour through the iron districts of Eastern and Central Pennsylvania, and under date of Reading, 11th inst., gives a very interesting account of what he saw and heard. He sees in the demand at present being made upon the iron furnaces of Pennsylvania abundant evidence of the material advancement of the country at large. He says:

"At the present time there is being made in this State more iron than is produced by all the combined furnaces of England and continent of Europe, and every ton of raw pig-metal that finds its way to the forge is run from the native ore in the United States. This is a fact, which, above all America's many noteworthy strides, is the most unprecedented in the annals of its history. The traveler having occasion to pass through the valleys of Eastern Pennsylvania cannot fail to note the wonderful business being done. Through these great belts of coal, iron ore, and limestone country the Lehigh and Schuylkill canals and railroads are constantly in motion. Upon the tracts owned by the wealthy people in that section iron ore is found in one field and limestone in another. Along the mountain sides adjoining the premises they mine coal, and rushing down from the hill tops is a large stream of water. A railroad finds its way along the borders, and furnishes cheap transportation to the furnaces, and along with their usual crops of wheat, oats and corn they turn out pig iron by way of variety at the rate of one or two hundred tons per day."

Furnaces are going up in all parts of the iron and limestone country, he says, and the expression, "a furnace every five miles," is common throughout the region which he traversed. All the furnaces hidden away among the lofty hills and along the streams and railways are "roaring, and smoking, and blowing, and smelting, and moulding bars of pig iron, night and day, to their fullest capacities," yielding a golden harvest to the "iron agriculturists." Grea, as is the production, it does not exceed the demand! The correspondent continues:

"When England shipped iron to this country our resources were able to amply accommodate the demand. They stand on the defensive. But outside Indiana or Iowa there are no customers for American iron to this country; our natural demand is very nearly double that of a year ago, so readily can be seen the immense trade in prospect, when the fact is considered that our capacity has not at all been enlarged for the last two months ago. Millions of dollars of capital are being invested in the extension and development of this branch of Pennsylvania's resources. Pig iron can be produced at an average first cost of from $12 to $20 per ton, according to location and convenience at hand. A clear profit of from $5 to $8 per ton is made, and when the produce ranges from one to two hundred tons per day the aggregate profits of a day's business can be easily calculated. Immediately following the success of the iron trade in every respect, and bids fair to double its great wealth in that branch of our country's manufacturing industries, and prove to the world that Pennsylvania is the iron State."

In order to get the views of a representative man among the iron masters, the correspondent visited and interviewed Henry S. Eckert, of Reading. On the subject of the stoppage of shipments of iron from England, and kindred topics, that gentleman said:

"A great many reasons are given for the suspension of shipments of pig iron from England; but I do not think these causes combined are sufficient to consign iron to America as things at present exist. The iron-ore mines of England are nearly worn. In the cheap times of the Kingdom, ore was plenty, and labor was to be had at very little cost. Now, the opposite is the case. Native ore is extremely rare, and labor is only to be had at advanced rates. England now receives most of its ore from Spain. By the time it reaches English furnaces and is smelted by English labor the first cost of the material is advanced fully 100 per cent. Besides the cost of transportation is great. The average first cost of iron in England is fully as much if not more than it is in this country. A ton of pig iron in English mines is not produced from at about $10 or $11 per ton; now the cost here is about $7 or $8. They might compete with America even at that rate, but England has not the iron to do it with. That is a fact not generally known; but for the first time in the history of this country America has shipped iron to England, and what is more, increased demand is no more than the natural results of the laws of trade. Prussia is now developing and development of new railway lines, and the restocking and rerailing of old lines, have been the direct causes of a heavy drain on English stock on hand. In America the matter stands very nearly the same. The era of railroad building has scarcely just set in. All over the country are the iron bands being spiked to the sills. The people of every State are watching the progress of one or two important railroad highways among them. New manufacturing enterprises are being started, and mill sites are being built every fortnight, trade in all its branches is most flourishing. Prices are firm, and finally finding its way into everything, and supplanting wood and stone; but, above all these, our old earth, the mother of us all, is teeming with wealth. Not only in the bright piece of the second story opens, and Death, as a skeleton, with a scythe in hand, appears, and marks the hour by striking a bell. But it is at the ninth hour that we have the most striking and lively representation of the day of judgment. Then, when Death has struck three blows on the little bell, the cock on the top of the tower suddenly flaps his wings, and crows in a shrill tone; and, after Death has struck the fourth time, he lays down his scythe and his hour-glass, and, with a threatening air, turns to the right and left, and looks around him. Then the three angels, who stand in the tower, raise their trumpets with their right hands (in the left they hold swords), and blow a blast toward each of the four quarters of the earth. At the last blast the door of the tower opens, and the resurrected children of earth appear. The old Gothic castle in the middle of the structure is then closed, and remains so until next week, when they suddenly became furious, tearing each other dreadfully. They were immediately killed.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, November 23, 1872.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER AND NATIONAL SONGS.

[Read at the meeting of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, October 9, by Hon. Stephen Salisbury, president of the society.]

As a slight cloak of propriety, if not of dignity for a subject that may be considered of little importance, to which I will invite the attention of the society for a few minutes, I will offer a familiar quotation from Andrew Fletcher of Saltown, which is of some value to Fletcher, for it has given him his best hold on the memory of modern times. He writes: "I knew a very wise man who believed that if a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation." If this should be doubted as a just expression, it will not be doubted that national songs, in some degree, form and indicate the character of a people, and are therefore worthy of historical notice. I am not aware that there is more important proof of the power of music than is found in the influence of the song entitled "The Star Spangled Banner" during the struggles for the life of our nation in the last twelve years. In the efforts and sufferings of the camp, the battlefield and the prison, and in the discouragements and sacrifices of those who upheld the national arm at home, the untiring repetition of their inspiring strains and the "marching on" of a more humble and more energetic chorus kept up the strength and enthusiasm of confident hope. Thus the "Star Spangled Banner" has become a favorite of our people. It is well known that it was written by Thomas Scott Key, a young lawyer of Baltimore, in September, 1814, and it was begun on board of a ship of the British fleet lying near Fort Mollenry, to which he had gone to negotiate an exchange of prisoners. To prevent his giving information to his countrymen of the intention to make a combined attack by sea and land on Baltimore, he was detained as a prisoner of war. The attack was made, and the flag of his country floating over the fort through the day, and in the darkness of the night caught occasional glimpses of it by the light of the shells and rockets by which it was assailed, and when morning dawned, he saw with unutterable delight that the beautiful ensign still waved over its brave defenders. This scene and the emotions that it excited he has given and expressed in this pathetic and inspiring song. The origin of the appropriate tune, that gives it so high and deeper feeling to the words, is not so well known. Every one can readily say that the tune is taken from an old English song entitled, "To Anacreon in Heaven." But I have inquired in vain of the most learned belles lettres scholars that I know or could approach, for the author of the words or the music, or the date of either. The song, as printed in "The Universal Songster," published in London from 1825 to 1834, has the name of Ralph Tomlinson as the author. Multiplied inquiries and research in all biographies and indexes that I can consult have not discovered the name, or given any trace of the author of it, and is enriched with happy classical ornaments, and it seems to be a thing that could not be disowned or forgotten. It celebrates the fabled power of song by Robert Trent Paine, jr., called "Adams and Liberty." At the period when the "Star Spangled Banner," which our cousins, with their customary impudence of assumption, call "the

The Pittsburgh C... November 23, 1872.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1872.

FULL returns from all the counties in this State show that, at the election for President and Vice-President on the 5th inst., General GRANT received 349,589 votes, GREELEY 211,691 —GRANT'S majority 137,728.

IN view of the emphatic and unqualified denial which Col. T. A. SCOTT makes to the story invented at Washington, wherein he was made to figure as a candidate for the United States Senate from Pennsylvania, as having almost deadly hand-to-hand encounters with Senator CAMERON, and as ready to fight the world generally, the wonder is how the story came to be invented, except the solution is to be found in the total depravity of the scamps who live solely to produce inventions concerning public men. It is to be observed that the story first appeared in the New York *Sun*, which of itself is probably a sufficient explanation.

AS A step toward the resumption of specie payments in the shortest possible time, it is stated that a proposition is being entertained by the Treasury Department for remodeling the National Banking law, providing for the calling in of all national bank notes, and the issue in their stead of legal tenders; while, in lieu of the bank receiving ninety per cent. on their circulation, as at present, they are to receive a hundred per cent. in legal tenders, the banks being required to keep on hand certain amounts of specie, to be increased from time to time until specie payments can be conveniently resumed by the government and the banks.

ALTHOUGH the Constitutional Convention was in session only a few days, enough is known of its temper concerning special legislation to render it certain that if this evil is not cut up, root and branch, it will not be because their exists not the disposition to do it. A very general feeling exists in favor of legislating by general laws, and of relegating to the people the whole control over their domestic affairs in counties, cities and boroughs, and to courts and other bodies very many things which the Legislature is now asked to grant through special legislation. The only danger is that the *reform will be pressed too far*, and more attempted than will be found practicable in experience; but it is satisfactory to know that so healthy a sentiment pervades the convention.

SPECIAL interest attaches to the contest for the position of Postmaster in Philadelphia, about to be made vacant by the election of Gen. BINGHAM to a county office. The applicants are Mr. THUMAN and Mr. FAIRMAN. The latter is an old subordinate in the office, is supported by the bulk of general appointees, the influential men in Mr. BORIE, GEORGE H. STUART, and many citizens of their stamp, besides the rules prescribed by the Civil Service Commission. Mr. THUMAN is backed by many of the strong men of the Republican party, a delegation of whom, with Gen. CAMERON at their head, have waited on President GRANT in his behalf, and on the contrary, it is said that Gen. CAMERON supports FAIRMAN. If is therefore more than a question who shall be Postmaster; for the decision will determine whether the Civil Service Rules are to be adhered to—whether the reform in this direction so much mooted is to be put in practice or the idea abandoned under the pressure of politicians.

NO SUBJECT was more conspicuously before the country than Civil Service Reform. The Republicans put it into their national platform, it was in the mouths of all their orators, and the pledge to support General GRANT in his efforts in this direction was everywhere repeated and applauded. To the redemption of that pledge General GRANT no doubt sincerely intends to address himself; the question is, what support will he have? That the pledge will be repudiated by some, and that the effort will cost him a struggle, there can be no doubt. Probably the Republicans in Congress, with scarcely an exception, were elected as much on that issue as any other, aside from the general one between parties. To a man they stand committed to support General GRANT in his efforts to secure Civil Service. How many of them will prove faithful to it? If there is a question as to them, there can be none as to the people at large: and to their steady support General GRANT c n look with confidence.

A MOVEMENT is on foot in California, which, should it be pushed to a successful conclusion, will not only remove the obstacles which have hitherto prevented the introduction of greenbacks into the Pacific States as a general circulating medium, but will also go far toward restoring the national currency to par value in coin. The proposition looks to the securing of such an amendment to the National Gold Bank law as will authorize the establishment of banks with five millions of capital; the effect of which would be to raise from the vaults and safes upon the market as cash gold some sixty millions out of the eighty millions of gold now employed in the business of the Pacific States. Such a step would more than double the present supply of cash gold in the market, and to that degree aid in bringing about a satisfactory solution of the vexed problem of the currency. The most noticeable feature of the movement is, that the additional specie is to emanate from the Bank of California, a gigantic monetary institution which has heretofore controlled the money market of that entire region, and uniformly exerted its power for the exclusion of the national currency.

CONSIDERING how, for six months, General GRANT was held up to the country as a tyrant, and as one so utterly unfit to be President that if he was not defeated the country would surely go to ruin, it is interesting to notice how all this has ceased since the election, and how satisfied everybody is with his re-election. It is a curious commentary on our American politics, and should cause people to fortify themselves with moderation against the next spasm. Those gentlemen who, with SCHURZ, TRUMBULL and GRATZ BROWN, have so fearfully and persistently sounded the alarm against GRANT can reflect at their leisure—and this, it is presumed, they are doing—on the probable estimate the people have of them and their teachings. Will they confess their error—admit that they raised a false cry—or persist in it? In the latter case, as concerned, it matters little what the gentlemen themselves do; but as relating to themselves as public men the question seems worthy of attention. It is presumed that it will not escape them how powerless they are—as men, however exalted their positions, ever will be, when they are actuated by envy and take up arms for personal revenge. Of them all, Mr. SUMNER will doubtless take the lesson and the rebuke hardest; and of him it can be said that of all men his humiliation will give the greatest degree of satisfaction.

HIRAM POWERS, the sculptor, has made a contribution to what may perhaps be designated as the fire literature of the period, in the shape of a letter in which he expresses his belief that it is possible to make a city virtually fire-proof, without any great extra expense. He affirms that although there have been frequent fires in the city of Florence, Italy, during his thirty-six years' residence in it, not a single building has been consumed, except a stable and a chapel, which were entirely destroyed. Rooms, full of goods, he says, have been heated like ovens by the ignited material, but as the floors above and below were all covered by thin brick tiles, the combustibles burned without ventilation, in consequence of which the fire could not gather headway. He states the secret of fire-proof building to be this: make it impossible for the flames to ascend through the floors or up the stairway, which can be accomplished by laying a flooring of the thinnest sheet iron over the joists, if the floors and stairs are of wood, and placing the wood upon that, and sheeting the stairs with the same material. In case of fire the combustion will go on so slowly that discovery is certain to be in time to prevent any great calamity. The best flooring, however, as well as the best roofing, is, he states, hard burned brick tiles. When floors of this kind are covered with several thicknesses of paper, and then carpeted, no one, he affirms, can distinguish the slightest difference between their temperature and that of wood floors. He does not insure his own house, being perfectly satisfied that it is not combustible.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM—PHILADELPHIA POSTMASTER.

No doubt President GRANT intends that his decision in the Philadelphia Postmaster case shall be understood as a precedent and a formal declaration that hereafter to all cases covered by the civil service rules that test will be applied. In reaffirming his position thus formally the President is only acting in accordance with an intention many times expressed, with the declaration of the National Republican Platform, as well as that of his party in a variety of forms, and with the popular judgment as recorded in the recent overwhelming victory of the Republican party. It is scarcely probable that the Philadelphia gentlemen who waited on him in behalf of their favorite expected any other result. This decision settles in advance not a few cases of a similar character, and will save the President from much trouble. That it will at first disappoint applicants barred by the new rules, and their backers, is altogether probable; but if they are reasonable men they will not be slow to acquiesce, not only because they have, as Republicans, helped to affirm the rule, and therefore are bound by it, but because it is a wholesome rule in itself, tending to remedy grave evils, the correction of which was urgently demanded on all sides. That the offices cost the party in power more than they are worth is now quite generally conceded, and any rule which relieves the dominant party from the responsibility and distractions incident to the division of the "spoils of office" has a claim to support apart from the good effects on the public service.

Concerning the application of the new rules, the New York *Times* remarks as follows:

"Let it be distinctly understood that it is not the purpose of civil service reformers to carry their measures to a point where they shall interfere with the legitimate necessities of government by parties. In our country, government can be carried on only by parties. To a certain extent the officers of the government must change occupants with the change of parties in power. It would be absurd to insist that all posts in the government should be held irrespective of the opinions of the holders. But when the question arises at what point the line may be drawn, and where change becomes not only unnecessary, but harmful, it is not hard to find a practical, if not a perfect, answer. The Commissioners of the Civil Service draw the line so as to leave out of the operation of the rules presented by them and adopted by the President, the heads of departments and their immediate assistants and deputies, the diplomatic service, the judiciary and the district attorneys.

"But below this line the President's plan is strict. Its essential idea is to base appointment and promotion on merit and fitness, and to secure that by competitive examination, and second, by probation; certainly a practical notion, and one which is roughly carried out in every business house, small or great, in the country. It is this fact—the sincere attempt of the President to transact the business of the government on business principles—which, in our opinion, has made this reform already more popular than a casual observer may think. It is also sure to make it more and more so, and if it should unfortunately ever become a definite issue before the people—which would be an event unspeakably discreditable to Congress—there is no doubt that the whole country could be carried for it with unprecedented unanimity."

OUR INLAND COMMERCE—THE QUESTION OF TRANSPORTATION.

One of the greatest and most vital problems of the time, and which perhaps more strongly than any other presses for solution, is the question of adequate facilities for the transportation of produce and merchandise between the interior and the seaboard, in a manner at once prompt, economical and safe. The matter is in every respect a national one, involving interests which, in a greater or less degree may be said to affect the welfare of the whole people. It is certain, first: that the rapid opening up of new frontier regions, and their settlement and cultivation, begets, year by year, a constantly increasing necessity for corresponding transportation facilities. Second: in consequence of the lack of these facilities, the producing West and Northwest, notwithstanding their bountiful harves s and inexhaustable resources, are practically to-day in a depressed condition; the increased surplus crops of the farmers being virtually an incumbrance on their hands. Third: not only must this anomalous state of things inevitably continue so long as the present deficiency in transportation facilities exists, but every increase in the productiveness of the region, and of the facilities for reaching the seaboard, tends to aggravate rather than diminish the evil. In other words, the more the western producer raises, the less likely will it be to yield him first cost, to say nothing of returning him a profit. Fourth: this condition of valuelessness is to a very considerable extent owing to the exorbitant freight charges of the great railroad corporations from the interior to the seaboard; a western farmer being at the present time, for instance, virtually compelled to give from four to five bushels of grain for the transportation of one bushel to eastern ports. Fifth: experience has demonstrated the almost entire uselessness of looking to the railroad companies themselves, under the present system, for any considerable reduction in their charges. Sixth: as what support will he have? That the pledge will be repudiated by some, and that the effort will cost him a struggle, there can be no doubt. Probably the Republicans in Congress, with scarcely an exception, were elected as much on that issue as any other, aside from the general one between parties. To a man they stand committed to support General GRANT in his efforts to secure Civil Service. How many of them will prove faithful to it? If there is a question as to them, there can be none as to the people at large: and to their steady support General GRANT c n look with confidence.

And this statement seems sustained by comparison. As rewards for services in the Crimean war, in 1854 and 1855, and in the Italian campaign of 1859, NAPOLEON the Third conferred only six grand crosses of the Legion of Honor, while during and since the war with Germany the republic has conferred sixteen of the same insignia. The pensions to which the sixteen persons thus decorated are entitled amounts to a million, six hundred thousand francs a year. Again, after the Crimean war twelve persons were made Grand Officers of the Legion of Honor, and after the Italian war ten others were promoted in the same way—twenty-two in all. But after the defeats at Woerth and Forbach, and after the capitulation of Metz and Paris, fifty-two Grand Officers were created. In 1854 and 1855 twenty-six Commanders of the Legion were nominated, and in 1859 twenty-eight more. On the other hand, for services rendered to the republic, no less than one hundred and ninety-two persons were raised to the rank of Commander. After the Crimean and Italian wars the Emperor made only four hundred and fifty-nine Officers of the Legion of Honor; but in 1870 no less than seventeen hundred and eight persons were thus decorated. As to the mere Cross of the Legion of Honor, it has been given away with more than corresponding liberality. As General TROCHU intimated some time ago in the National Assembly, from the number of insignia of this kind distributed, one might suppose that France, instead of suffering a tremendous catastrophe, had covered her name with glory by the subjugation of all Europe.

As such distinctions are much coveted by Frenchmen and furnish a very powerful stimulus in the way of duty, they were, no doubt, used by the men in power as a means of securing the best service under the desperate circumstances in which the country was involved. And there was probably neither leisure nor opportunity for the careful inquiry into the particulars of performance and into the details of character which were necessary to grand against the abuses charged upon the distribution of the honors. Even the abuses alleged, or rather the consequence of the abuses, may aid in qualifying France to be a republic. Orders are not exactly republican, and if the effect of the profusion with which the insignia of the Legion of Honor have been bestowed should be to deprive the rank of its attractions, the forfeiture would perhaps tell in favor of democracy. The example of the United States confirms this view. The people having taken the matter of titular honors into their own liberal hands, they soon stripped such empty distinctions of their entire aristocratic color and significance, and rendered them perfectly harmless and compatible with republican institutions by the mere universality of their distribution. The fact that a similar process seems to have begun in France may therefore be regarded as an indication not unfavorable to the duration of the republic.

"A LITTLE ENOUGH."

American superficiality has long been proverbial in Europe, and, to some extent, even among ourselves. Charges of faults, confidently made and never successfully or triumphantly refuted, are always exaggerated, and it is, therefore, no doubt true that the view referred to is less prevalent than our distant neighbors so cheerfully take for granted. It is also true that the reproach, whether repelled as wholly unjust or hearkened to as probably if not certainly deserved, has not utterly failed to produce good. Within a few years past, many prepared in his own wisdom and had passed—marked improvements have been made. Since the passed 28th March, 1872.

The consequence is that we have an act of Assembly that cannot be enforced, and an ordinance thereunder that is illegal and void.

After the Assembly was nearer right than McCarthy, and if Negley had been listened to, we might have had a constitutional act of Assembly that could have been enforced, and a legal and well digested ordinance, but in McCarthy's zeal, unsatisfactory.

"Make haste, slowly" is a good motto.

EQUALIZATION.

Disposition of the "Alabama" Award.

A number of claimants against the British government, for losses incurred by the "Alabama" depredations, have filed a memorial with the Secretary of General Caleb Cushing to the United States, made application to him for information concerning the exact present state of their claims, that gentleman, who was counsel for the United States before the Geneva Tribunal, has written a letter in which the whole matter is substantially summed up as follows: The Tribunal, after scrutinizing the schedules presented, not always with practicability, presented by the United States, awarded a sum in gross, which General Cushing considers to be sufficient to afford a just indemnity for their losses; which sum will be paid to the agent of Great Britain, with interest on any delay. This will be received and held by the government as a trust fund, to be distributed promptly and justly among the parties entitled to receive from the republic. If there is not the slightest contingency or uncertainty in all this; but that, while it will be for congress to decide as to the manner of effecting the distribution, the act of handing forward in life has been already kindled, it is almost idle for the teacher to inculcate the importance of thoroughness. To boys thus animated, the suggestion of the worth or charms of knowledge for its own sake seems a sheer delusion or a blank absurdity. apparent belief in which degrades the teacher in their estimation. The only knowledge worth their attention is that which their ambitious youth as worthy of his attention is the knowledge which, by its manifestly practical character, appears likely to aid him in his chosen career; and he is very apt to fancy that even its precise value is overestimated by others. This precocious boy is, however, sometimes not a little influenced by the traditions which represent certain studies, acquired in his college days, as essential to a complete or liberal education. He, therefore, does not choose to assume the responsibility of wholly neglecting them. Reflecting that he must at least be able to say, perhaps to feel that his education has comprehended classical studies, the youth is furnished with a Latin grammar and other needful elementary books, and enters upon a course in philology. How frequently the results in real, advantageous knowledge and disciplined mental power of the nominal we need not say. The fact is generally admitted and deplored by the earnest friends of education, who frequently refer the unsatisfactory issue to the repulsive, remote, and comparatively useless nature of classical studies. And yet it is probably true that in such instances examination would for the most part elicit not much more exact or profitable acquisitions in other studies, than the classical, which can pretend to no nutritiousness. The consequence of this has been that the Latin and Greek languages, which are almost taught on the spot for some ten or fifteen sous the pound, is this year selling there at two and even three francs the centner, in Burgundy, the demand is so brisk, the yield will be extremely small, and the wine-growers of the Côte d'Or, Beaune and other well-known places. The inferior vintages, on the flat ground on the distinguished from the *sous des coteaux*, which are the best growths and produced upon slopes with a southern aspect), being almost entirely destroyed, those of the Auxerre district has not suffered much, and the same is reported of the Bordeaux country, and the shores of the Mediterranean, including the Department of the Herault, one of the most important wine-producing localities in France. On the whole, the average yearly vintage is estimated at no less than one hundred millions. The correspondent mentions an instance of the rapidity with which this country can become a wine-growing country. American agents are actually purchasing vineyards in the finest sections, which requires the Councils, by themselves or by proper officers or agents, to examine and [illegible] Yet the Councils themselves have placed a construction on this third section by saying, in their equalization ordinance, that they shall elect this Board of Revision. Where is the authority for the Councils of the city delegating their authority to the people? Is it in the letter of the law? Is it in the act itself? No! And if it were in the act, is it within any power on earth to delegate it? Is it right? No!

The people elect the Councils to transact for them the business pertaining to the general interests of the whole city, with their powers limited, however, by the Constitution, and having to take an oath that they cannot redelegate any of these powers to any other person or persons without express enactment of the Legislature to that effect.

Does the act in relation to equalization give the Councils the right to delegate the powers to the people? If it does, what has the title of the act to do, as explanatory thereof, when it says: "*And also giving power to the Councils* to equalize the valuation," &c?

The railroad above referred to was not allowed to go out of their beaten roads, although they could increase their business greatly under the said roads or streets. So here Councils will not be permitted to go out of their ways, to the people, although the people have given them express authority so to do, for the case of the city for city purposes, and the